

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Claim 6 has been withdrawn from consideration. Thus, claims 1-5 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5212630 to Yamamoto et al (hereinafter, "Yamamoto"). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6288524 to Tsujimoto. Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of Talbot (WO 00/79370). It is noted that claim 1 has been amended. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejections, as follows.

In the Applicant's invention as recited in independent claim 1, a power supply device includes an output smoothing section receiving an input voltage and producing a smoothed voltage; a switching device connected to the output smoothing section; an output current sensing section connected to the output smoothing section and monitoring an output current that flows when the smoothed voltage is supplied to a load; and a driver section for driving and controlling the switching device based on an output voltage supplied through the output current sensing section to the load and based on a result of monitoring by the output current sensing section.

Thus, in the claimed invention, the output smoothing section directly receives the input voltage. In the device of Yamamoto, however, the output smoothing section (101 and 102 in Fig. 1) is for smoothing the output current (IA1) from the inverter body (100 in Fig. 1). The output smoothing section (101, 102) does not directly receive the input voltage.

In addition, in the claimed invention, the switching device is connected to the output smoothing section without being connected to the terminal to which the input voltage is applied. In the device of Yamamoto, the switching device (Q1, etc. of Fig. 2) constitutes the inverter body (140), and is connected between the terminal to which the input voltage is applied and the output smoothing section (101, 102).

Further, in the claimed invention, the driver section drives and controls the switching device based on the output voltage supplied via the output current sensing section to the load, and the result of the monitoring by the output current sensing section. In the device of Yamamoto, the driver section (400 etc. in Fig. 1) drives and controls the switching device (Q1, etc.) based on the voltage obtained from the node between the output smoothing section (101, 102) and the current detecting section (200a in Fig. 1), and based on the result of the monitoring by the current detecting section (200a). Thus, the claimed invention and Yamamoto clearly differ in the interconnection among the relevant elements. Furthermore, Tsujimoto and Talbot are not cited for, nor do they cure the deficiencies existing in Yamamoto.

None of Yamamoto, Tsujimoto and Talbot, nor any combination thereof, discloses or suggests an output smoothing section receiving an input voltage and producing a smoothed voltage; a switching device connected to the output smoothing section; an output current sensing section connected to the output smoothing section and monitoring

an output current that flows when the smoothed voltage is supplied to a load; and a driver section for driving and controlling the switching device based on an output voltage supplied through the output current sensing section to the load and based on a result of monitoring by the output current sensing section, as recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

For at least this reason, the Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is allowable over the applied art of record. As claim 1 is allowable, the Applicant submits that claims 2-5, which depend from allowable claim 1, are likewise allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to

charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele L. Connell', written over a horizontal line.

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